

Stroud Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH,

1906.

PRINTED AT THE "STROUD NEWS" OFFICE, STROUD.

To the Stroud Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

In presenting herewith my fifth Annual Report it is with regret that I have to record the death of my predecessor, Dr. T. Partridge, who—your first Medical Officer of Health—held the post for 28 years. As one of the pioneers among Health Officers he had many difficulties to contend with, and it was—I gather from his reports—long before the public generally realised that the Medical Officer of Health was not a police functionary but a medical man whose duty it is to endeavour to discover causes prejudicial to the public health, and to try to remedy them. That Dr. Partridge succeeded as he did in his work is undoubtedly due in large measure to the support which he received from the Council.

The year under review has been marked by great improvement in the matter of water supply, and it is hoped that the changes may render a constant service possible.

The attention of the Council has been called by the Home Office to the important powers they possess under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and Sanitary Authorities are urged to carry out their duties more efficiently.

There has been no special prevalence of infectious disease: at the end of the year there was a small localised outbreak of diphtheria, which was promptly controlled by removal of patients to Hospital and a search for unrecognised cases.

An advance was made in the work of preventing consumption through the adoption by the Council of a voluntary system of notification, of which however but little use has been made up to the present.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. MIDDLETON MARTIN,
Medical Officer of Health.

4th February, 1907.

Medical Officer's Report 1906.

HOUSING.

During the year two groups of four houses each were closed under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts. The first group were four back to back cottages, with only one closet for the four: these were converted into two cottages and the frontage set back a little to improve an awkward corner in the lane. The second group of four consisted of four stone-built cottages, with tiled roofs, below the level of the road, one being built into the bank: these are now untenanted. There was no occasion in either case to apply to the magistrates for a closing order, as both owners took action on the representation of the Committee.

Attention has also been called to various other houses, in which alterations will be made, or further action taken.

The number of new houses built during the year was 9, and plans for 14 were approved by the Council: the numbers of new houses built in preceding years were 7, 5, 6 and 4.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No change has been made in the methods of sewage disposal. the present method is chemical precipitation, cakes of aluminiferrous ferric being placed in the course of the sewage, which is then allowed to settle in two tanks. The sludge is spread and dried, and is then removed by farmers in the neighbourhood. There are still some 60 houses on

the south eastern part of the town, and a few outlying houses which owing to difficulties of fall, are not connected with the main sewers, and drain to the streams.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Attention has been called during the year to the condition of Cuckold's Brook, which runs through a pond in the grounds of a house: this stream forms the boundary between this and the Rural District, and receives the sewage from outlying houses in this District, as well as from some in the Rural District. The Rural District Council are extending their sewers to take in most of the houses so far as their district is concerned, and it was decided by this Council to meet the Drainage Committee of the Rural District Council and consider the matter jointly: this meeting has not yet been arranged.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the collection of house refuse, which is carted by a contractor to the dumping ground at the sewage works. I would again suggest that the attention of householders be called to the bye-law requiring suitable receptacles with a proper cover for the reception of house refuse.

WATER SUPPLY.

Considerable improvement has been made in the water supply of the district during the year. Not only have arrangements been made whereby the water from Gainey's Well can be distributed more advantageously than hitherto by a great increase in the pump-

ing power at this station, but also steps have been taken to greatly augment the supply to the upper reservoirs by extending the collecting mains. Further, uniform leases on the Lypiatt and Rodborough Lectureship estates have been effected for a period of 50 years. The Surveyor (G. P. Milnes, Esq., Assoc. M. Inst. C.E.) has kindly given the accompanying account of these alterations:—

GAINEY'S WELL.

Previous to carrying out the alterations, the capacity of the plant at Gainey's Well was equal to raising 3,000 gallons per hour to Bird's Clock Reservoir, a height of about 383 feet O.D., whilst the new plant is capable of raising 10,000 gallons per hour to the Covered Reservoir, a height of about 535ft. O.D. Consequently in time of drought the water from Gainey's Well will be available for supplying most elevated portions of the district. The discharge of the spring at Gainey's Well being about 3,000 gallons per hour, I devised an inexpensive means for storing the water during the night.

SUPPLY TO UPPER RESERVOIRS.

The cast iron pipes for conveying water from Kilminster and Fennell's Farms have been extended for a distance of about one mile, and although the whole of the water has not yet been collected, the supply to the Upper Reservoir is at present increased by about one-half.

Thus it will be seen that the quantity of water now available for the supply of the town has been so greatly increased that it is hoped the complaints of shortness during

this and past years will not recur, and that the possibility of a constant service is brought nearer. To effect the latter the present system of mains will, I am informed, need re-arranging, and, further, it will be necessary to ensure that all house fittings, etc., are sufficient to bear the pressure and prevent waste of water.

The quality of the water from both supplies has been, as usual, favourably reported on by the County Analyst: but, in view of the fact that a considerable portion of the gathering ground for the upper supply—which is a subsoil water—is arable land, presumably heavily manured from time to time, it would appear desirable to filter this water. The total hardness of this supply has varied from 14.8 (1904) to 36.0 (1894), and the temporary hardness from 5.8 (1902) to 20.0 (1894): if the latter were removed the average hardness of the water distributed would be about 10 degrees instead of 18-20 degrees as at present. The water from Gainey's Well is slightly less hard than that from the upper supply, the extremes being 14.4 degrees (1900) and 26 degrees (1894).

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are three common lodging houses in the district registered to accommodate 127 persons. These are kept under close observation by the Sanitary Inspector: they are clean and on the whole are managed satisfactorily. Beer is allowed in only one house. One of the lodging houses licensed for 26 persons has only one closet.

DAIRIES, ETC.

The number of milk sellers on the register

is 23, but there are only 4 farms producing milk in the district: most of the supply is brought into the town from the surrounding districts and sold direct from the carts.

The regulations with respect to these places mentioned in my report for 1905 were approved by the Local Government Board in January and adopted by the Council at the February meeting.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

In October a circular memorandum was received from the Home Office drawing the attention of the Council to their powers and duties under this Act, and urging that it should be more efficiently administered throughout the country. The sections dealing with outworkers are of particular importance in this neighbourhood owing to the amount of home work given out by the ready-made clothing factories not only in this district, but also in the neighbouring districts. For the information of the Council, occupiers giving out work have to supply lists in February and August of each year—revised to date—of all persons doing home work for them, and it is the duty of the Council to forward the names of persons resident beyond their district to the Councils of the districts in which the workers reside.

The numbers of lists received during 1906 were 6, and the total number of names on these lists was 320, of which number 153 were forwarded to the neighbouring District Councils. During the year 34 visits were paid to outworkers by the Inspector, and 13 defects were remedied on verbal notice.

The number of workshops on the register

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ...	3	1	
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ...	54	4	
WORKPLACES ...			
TOTAL ...	57	5	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	4	4		
Want of ventilation ...	3	3		
Other nuisances... ..	6	6		
*Sanitary accommodation, unsuitable or defective				
TOTAL ...	13	13		

* Section 22 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted. No standard fixed.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Home Work : Lists received, 6 ; Outworkers, 320 ; No. of Addresses received from other Councils, 12 ; ditto forwarded to other Councils, 153 ; No. of Inspections of Outworkers' premises, 34.

Total number of Workshops on Register, 106.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories, 6.

Underground Bakehouses, (s. 101) in use at end of the year, 2.

is 106, the detail as to these will be found on the accompanying table.

Three notices were received from the Factory Inspector, and the results of action taken thereon were forwarded to him.

Bakehouses received special attention during the year: on the whole these are fairly kept, but there is a tendency to accumulate rubbish in them and, in some instances, to leave places difficult of access uncleaned: this was particularly noticed under dough troughs which are in most cases fixed. With smoother floors and troughs on wheels effectual cleansing would be facilitated.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two tripe boilers in the town. The work in one case is done practically in the open and no nuisance is caused: in the second, the work of tripe boiling, combined with fish frying, is done in a room with only borrowed light and without direct ventilation to the outer air. Attention is now being given to the latter place.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notifications received during 1906 was 28, the highest for the past four years, chiefly owing to an increase in the number of cases of diphtheria. The age and sex distribution of the cases is given in Table III., which also shows the civil parishes in which they occurred.

SCARLET FEVER.

Five of the eight cases were notified during March: only one of these was a child attending school. Four of them were closely connected, and the first was a child who had

burnt her face seriously and was being treated as an out-patient at the General Hospital for the injury. It is of interest to note that the next case—notified some three months later—was also a child who had burnt himself. The injuries caused by burns appear to render children specially liable to the infection of scarlet fever. Seven of the eight cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

All 10 cases of diphtheria were notified in the last six weeks of the year: the third of the series—a youth of nineteen—appeared at first sight to have no relation to the first notified, but on investigation it was found that he had been in close association with a family some of whom were school fellows of the first case. Four members of this family had had sore throats at the same time as the first cases notified, and bacteriological examination of their throats confirmed the suspicion that they had all had mild attacks of diphtheria. Another case—unfortunately fatal—occurred which appeared to have no relation to the above group. Schools were visited and contacts examined, but beyond the above family no other cases were discovered. All 10 cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

In my report for 1903 I referred to the high mortality from tubercular diseases in this town, and during the year following, at your request, drew up a leaflet calling attention to this fact and indicating the influence of indiscriminate spitting on the spread of this disease: a copy of this leaflet—printed



SCHEDULE B.—Stroud Urban District Council, 1906.

Causes of Death.	All Ages	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	65 and upwards	Stroud.	Uplands	Work-house.	Hospitals	In Public Institutions.
Diphtheria, Membranous Croup	1				1			1				
Diarrhoea, Dysentery ...	1	1						1				
Epidemic or Zymotic Enteritis	1	1						1				
Euteritis ...	3	2				1		3				
Erysipelas ...	1						1	1			1	1
Other septic diseases—Cellulitis	1				1			1			2	1
Tuberculosis of Lungs ...	16			1	6	9		14	2	1	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1					1		1				
Cancer ...	13					10	3	11	2	3	5	5
Premature Birth ...	1	1							1			
Developmental Diseases ...	4	4						3	1	1		
Old Age ...	6						6	5	1	5		4
Meningitis ...	2	1	1					2				
Inflammation and Softening of Brain ...	2						2	1	1	1		1
Organic Diseases of Heart ...	6					4	2	6		2	1	2
Acute Bronchitis ...	6	3				2	1	6				
Chronic Bronchitis ...	9					1	8	9		6		5
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia ...	6					4	2	6		2		2
Lobular (Broncho-) Pneumonia	4	2	1				1	4		1	1	1
Diseases of Stomach ...	4	1	1			1	1	3	1		1	1
Obstruction of Intestines ..	3				1	1	1	3		1	2	
Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	1					1			1			
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	3					1	2	3		1	1	1
Deaths by Accident or Negligence	4					4		4			6	4
Deaths from Ill-defined Causes...	12			1		2	9	12		6		4
Other Respiratory ...	1						1	1		1		
Apoplexy ..	12					4	8	11	1	4		1
All other Causes ...	10					6	4	7	3	12	5	14
ALL CAUSES ...	134	16	3	2	9	52	52	120	14	47	27	48



on cards for factories, workshops and public houses—was left at every house. Further, the Council decided to offer disinfection in all cases where a death had taken place. During 1906, another step in the prevention of this disease was taken by the Council when on 6th March a system of voluntary notification of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was adopted, and further a supply of sputum flasks was obtained for the use of patients who could not afford to buy them. Up to the end of the year, however, only one case has been notified and proved fatal shortly afterwards. The number of houses disinfected during 1906 was 3.

The death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis during the 10 years (1891-1901) was 1.43, and from other tubercular diseases 0.40, a total of 1.83. The actual number of deaths during these 10 years was 174 or 12.2 per cent. of total deaths, i.e., 12 deaths out of every hundred in this district were due to tubercular disease. The numbers of deaths and death rates during 1906 and preceding years were:—

	Number.	Rate.
1906	17	1.92
1905	16	1.80
1904	13	1.45
1903	15	1.66
1902	21	2.30

VITAL STATISTICS.

In my previous reports I have remarked on the possible errors in estimates of population in the long interval between census years, and on the value of an intermediate enumeration of the population: every care has been taken to arrive at as accurate an estimate as

possible and to correct for deaths of non-residents in the town and of residents from Stroud dying in public institutions beyond the district. It is, however, probable that when more correct figures for the population during these years can be obtained after the next census, the rates given in this and previous reports will have to be slightly corrected.

BIRTHS.

The total births registered during 1906 were 180, a rate per 1,000 of 20.4, which is the highest rate for five years, though below the average (21.6) of the previous ten years.

Of the total 180, 10 or 5.6 per cent. of the total were illegitimate: 5.6 is also the average percentage of illegitimate births during the past five years. Taking the average separately for the two civil parishes it appears that while the percentage of illegitimacy for Stroud is 6.23, that for Uplands is 2.08. The percentage for the whole Union (1902-1906), was 3.82, and for England and Wales (1891-1900), 4.2.

DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the district during 1906 numbered 176, 47 of which occurred in the Union Workhouse and 27 in the General Hospital; of these 74, 48 belonged to the surrounding districts, while 6 persons from Stroud died in public institutions beyond the district, namely, the County Asylum (5), and the Isolation Hospital (1). Making the corresponding corrections the nett number of deaths becomes 134, a rate per 1,000 of 15.2 which is the highest recorded rate for six years and above the average (14.5), of the previous ten years, partly accounted for by comparatively large numbers of deaths from

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age,

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	11-12 months.	Total deaths under One year.
ALL CAUSES—Certified	3	1	3	7	4	1	1	1	1	1	16
Diarrhœa, all forms						1				1	2
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis			1	1	1						2
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...					1						1
Premature Birth	1			1							1
Congenital Defects	1			1							1
Injury at Birth	1			1							1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		1		1					1		2
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)							1				1
Bronchitis					2			1			3
Pneumonia			2	2							2
TOTAL	3	1	3	7	4	1	1	1	1	1	16

Population estimated to middle of 1906, 8,839.

Births in the year—legitimate, 170; illegitimate, 10; total, 180.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 13; illegitimate infants, 3—16.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 134.

cancer and respiratory diseases. Corrected for age and sex distribution the rate becomes 14.7, while that for England and Wales was 15.4. The average quinquennial rate has fallen for 21.6 (1875-1880) to 13.9 (1901-1905). That is, there is now an average saving of some 68 lives a year in this district.

Taking the death rates for the two parishes separately, the average (1898-1905) for Stroud (15.4) is considerably higher than that for Uplands (10.7), which as I have previously remarked is probably in part due to a more favourable age and sex distribution of the population in the latter parish.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the past thirty years the infantile mortality in this district has fallen from 161 to 108, that is out of every 1,000 births 53 more children reach the age of one year than did during 1875-1880. During 1906, the rate per 1,000 births was 89, the lowest rate in any one year with the exception of 1903 when it was 88.

Of the 16 deaths under one year of age, 3 children were illegitimate: thus for illegitimate children separately the infantile mortality (illegitimate deaths per 1,000 illegitimate births) was 300, whilst that for legitimate children was 76.

The average (1902-1906) illegitimate mortality in this district was 204, and the average legitimate 98.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The total number of deaths for which there were no medical certificates was 11, 8.2 per cent. of total deaths, inquests being held in all cases but one. The verdicts of the

juries in the 10 cases (7.5 per cent. of total deaths) were—Natural causes in six cases, and accident in four (drowning, fall of chimney, fall from cart, and kicked by horse).

In the one case in which no inquest was held the cause of death was given as “phthisis.”

Appended are the five tables of statistics prescribed by the Local Government Board.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending Dec. 31, 1906



To the Chairman and Members of the Stroud
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I have respectfully to again submit for your consideration and approval a summarised report of the work of this department for the past year.

The number of nuisances abated amount to 193, and are classified as follows:—29 houses cleaned and whitewashed, 9 houses repaired, 23 houses fumigated and cleansed after infectious disease, 2 cases of overcrowding abated, 8 dairies and milkshops whitewashed, 10 slaughterhouses whitewashed, 10 bakehouses whitewashed and cleansed, 4 cowsheds whitewashed and repaired, 2 new w.c.'s erected or re-built, 7 soil pipes and drains ventilated, 27 w.c.'s and drains unstopped, 9 old drains abolished, 13 new drains laid, 6 accumulations of manure and refuse removed, 7 lots of animals improperly kept, removed and cleansed, 22 workrooms and workshops cleansed and repaired; 5 various other nuisances removed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Fifty-eight visits have been made to the slaughterhouses within the district, the bye-laws relating thereto have in a general way been complied with, and taking into consideration the buildings, which are very old, are fairly well kept.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, with its subsequent special orders, requires a considerable amount of attention in carrying out its provisions.

The necessary notices served where required have been duly attended to.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Forty-three visits have been made to these houses, at varied intervals. On one occasion was there any breach of the bye-laws, although it is necessary at times to remind the keepers of extra attention being given to keep up the standard. The periodical cleansing and whitewashing has been carried out on verbal notice.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

Notices for cleansing and whitewashing, where required, have been given and 37 visits have been made.

UN SOUND FOOD.

Several seizures of food were made and condemned as unfit for food and destroyed, principally fruit and fish. In no case was there any attempt to obstruct the carrying out of this most important provision, and consequently no necessity for legal action.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.

This department has been carried on by contract as in previous years. The still very few complaints received, of itself, speaks of the satisfactory manner in which it is carried out.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

All premises licensed for the storage of petroleum, etc., have, as usual, been inspected, complying with the regulations.

Thirteen samples were tested, all being over the standard required.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

During the past year 20 canal boats have been inspected or re-inspected, all being found generally in good condition. No cases of infectious disease were detected or reported.

Three minor infringements were dealt with.

All boats were free from bilge water, and ventilation good. In one case no provision was made for water supply, this being remedied on notice.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PARSONS, Cer. R.S.I.

